on to fruitless and desolate fields of work." (p 306). Caro continued to consult for BASF but did not produce any new marketable products.

In retirement Caro became a chemical celebrity and was much admired, particularly in England, for his pioneering industrial research. He began writing a history of the dye industry soon after his retirement, which was published in the *Berichte der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft* in 1892. Caro became chairman of the *Verein Deutscher Chemiker* in 1897 and held the post until 1901. His management of the society led to a doubling of its membership, and it became the most important chemical society in Germany. Caro was also responsible for improving the society's journal, *Zeitschrift fur Angewandte Chemie*. He was the German coordinator for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the discovery of mauve held during July, 1906 in London. He greatly enjoyed seeing his old friends from the beginnings of the synthetic dye industry again. Caro, who had suffered from poor health his whole life, finally succumbed on September 11, 1910, at age 76.

In a final chapter the authors discuss the myths that developed concerning Heinrich Caro after his death. In Great Britain, which had been the birthplace of the dye industry, the departure of Caro, Hofmann, and other German chemists in the 1860s was given as one reason, in the early part of the 20th century, when attempts were being made to rationalize the failure of the British dye industry. This was not the only reason, but when included with the lack of investment in research by the British dye industry, the fundamental lack of appreciation of the theoretical developments in aromatic chemistry, and an antiquated educational system, they all contributed to the collapse of the British dye manufacture.

Caro, it is pointed out by the authors, had his faults, particularly a quarrelsome nature with his colleagues, which made him less than the most successful of leaders. However, being first in the introduction of so many new dyes and cultivating a system of close and fruitful contacts with academic chemists, he attained a nearly mythic status.

Through the story of Heinrich Caro, Reinhardt and Travis have produced the definitive work on the early years of the synthetic organic chemical industry. The foundations that Caro laid down flourished and endured, evolving smoothly from dyestuffs to pharmaceuticals and explosives, then to high-pressure chemistry, synthetic polymers, and, finally, the life sciences. My only regret is that the price of this book will discourage its wide distribution. *Martin D. Saltzman, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918.*

Erratum:

Volume 27, Number 2, p 108:

Legend under the photograph should read:
"Francis Home, courtesy the Wellcome Trust"